

October 26, 2012

Weekly Views

Governor Mitch Daniels made a final trip to the Rockville Correctional Facility before leaving office to show his support for offenders who successfully completed the CLIFF program. Governor Daniels met with the ladies and personally congratulated them on taking important steps in their rehabilitation. He also commended the Department for meeting his challenge of a "Meth Free Indiana" by establishing the CLIFF program soon after he took office almost eight years ago. (see photo below)

Horticulture Instructor Jack Mitchell and offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility grew 150

pumpkins, doubling last year's harvest. Just in time for Halloween, the pumpkins were delivered to pre-school and first grade students at Cloverdale and Central Elementary Schools. Superintendent Stan Knight commended the efforts of all involved and issued a friendly challenge, "Great job! Next year let's grow 200."

The community responded in a big way to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Job Fair! 74 area residents applied for jobs which include 30 correctional officer and two recreation leader slots. ARAMARK and CORIZON also took part. The event featured on the spot interviews and job shadowing tours of the maximum-security facility.

PEN Products and the Putnamville Correctional Facility provide services to various state agencies and the private sector with products made on-site at the prison's Park & Patio department. Over 745 picnic tables, two swings and four shelters have been constructed and delivered to state parks, churches, bingo halls and private individuals. Sixty-six picnic tables were also delivered to Prophetstown, Indiana's newest state park located in West Lafayette.

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard recognized staff and residents from the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) who participated in this past weekend's Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. Great Indy Clean Up. During his kick-off speech, Mayor Ballard thanked IREF and other participants for being good neighbors and helping to keep Indianapolis' neighborhoods clean and free of litter and debris. (see photo below)



Miami Correctional Facility promoted Dennis Reagle to Captain. Captain Reagle began his career with IDOC as a correctional officer in January 2000. He promoted to Sergeant in April 2002 and Correctional Lieutenant in 2007. In addition to attending Leadership training, he is also certified as E-Squad, SERT and Quick Response Team instructor and is Field Training Officer Coordinator for new hires. He was recently appointed as E-Squad Field Commander after serving many years on E-Squad.

The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles Mobile made a stop at the Indiana Women's Prison to help offenders prepare for re-entry. Over the two day period, 129 state ID's were processed for offenders at the facility who are within three years of their release date.



On October 15, Officer Kenneth Gray, an 18-year IDOC employee, was leaving the Plainfield Correctional Facility in route to Indiana University Hospital to relieve an officer on post. A short distance from the facility he saw an accident involving a man on a bicycle who had been hit by a car and stopped to see if assistance was needed. Finding the victim in a ditch several yards from the bicycle, Officer Gray observed the man was critically injured and immediately applied first aid. Officer Gray stayed with the injured man until EMS personnel arrived on the scene. Officer Gray's quick and heroic actions in all likelihood saved the man's life.

Moody Bible Institute basketball players visited the Indiana State Prison (ISP) for a game with the ISP Basketball Team. It was a very exciting game, and ISP took home the win with a final score of 80-70. Coach Dunn of Moody Bible Institute said "He and his team always enjoy playing here because it is not staged. They can play in the real atmosphere and fellowship with the team and fans."

Approximately 300 people, consisting of staff and their families enjoyed an evening of events which included a DJ, hog roast, kid's games, free pumpkins and hay rides. This year Chelsea Humes headed the group's Community Project to raise money for the Pendleton Police Department. Donations from PNC Bank, Madison County Winery, The Flower Cart, Citizens State Bank, Jimmie's Dairy Bar, Papa John's Pizza, Deb and Donna's Diner, Danny Fountain, Jeremiah Norris, Paula Dickson, Mike Rains and Keri Johnson, were raffled to raise money for the project. \$308 was raised to be donated to the Pendleton Police Department, which will assist them in purchasing a Special Purpose Vehicle.

Westville Correctional Facility hosted the Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting for Westville, Indiana State Prison, and Camp Summit Boot Camp. Discussion centered on the efforts to maintain the physical plant at the facilities and brainstorming ideas to improve contraband interdiction efforts. CAB members also asked questions about the community service work crews provided by the IDOC.